

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 211138

CINCPAC FOR POLAD, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT BLANTYRE 1244 ACTION SECSTATE DATED

9/23/74.

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL BLANTYRE 1244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, MI

SUBJ: US BASE ON DIEGT GARCIA

REF: BLANTYRE 1243

1. THE SECOND TOPIC RAISED BY PRESIDENT BANDA IN OUR TALK THIS MORNING WAS THE US INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA. HE WANTS US TO KNOW THAT HE FULLY APPROVES OF OUR INTENT AND CONSIDERS IT VERY IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY THAT WE DO SO. IN THIS VIEW, HE SAID, HE WILL PROBABLY BE ALONE AMONG EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN LEADERS. BUT REGARDING COMMUNISM AND THE SOVIETS HE IS "OLD-FASHIONED." THE SOVIETS HAVE CHANGED THEIR TACTICS BUT THEIR ULTIMATE STRATEGIC AIM OF WORLD DOMINATION HAS NOT CHANGED IN HIS OPINION. HE FAVORS DETENTE BUT WITH CONSTANT WATCHFULNESS

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AND PREPAREDNESS. IF OLD EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE HAD NOT BEEN SO

READY TO WELCOME COMMUNIST COUNTRY REPRESENTATION IN HIS COUNTRY
HE WOULDN'T BE WHERE HE IS TODAY.

2. ABOVE WAS FOLLOWED BY A 20-MINUTE INTERESTING FLASHBACK
OF HIS YEARS IN THE U.S. WHEN, HE SAID, HE FORMED HIS STRONG
DISLIKE FOR COMMUNISM AND HIS CONVICTION THAT CAPITALISM IS A
BETTER SYSTEM. HE STRESSED ALSO THE OPPRESSION AND LACK OF FREEDOM
OF THOSE UNDER COMMUNIST REGIMES AND CITED THE EXAMPLE OF BENES
AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

3. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT I WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS TO DEPARTMENT
AND THANKED HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT MENTIONING THAT THE SUBJECT MAY
BE BROUGHT UP AT THE UNGA. IF SO, HE SAID, WE MAY BE SURE OF
MALAWI'S VOTE. I SAID ALSO THAT WE BELIEVE IN DETENTE WITH
THE USSR BUT AGREE THAT THEY MUST BE WATCHED CAREFULLY. OUR
HOPE IS THAT WITH PEACE AND TIME THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES
MAY BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN TRADITIONAL SOVIET-COMMUNIST GOALS.
BANDA CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH A SMILING COMMENT
THAT HE WANTS NO PART OF THE RUSSIAN DEVIL; HE KNOWS THE BRITISH
AND AMERICAN DEVILS WELL AND PREFERENCES THEM ANYTIME.
STEVENSON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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